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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/638,403

08/12/2003

Yoshiaki Nakayoshi

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12/27/2005

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EXAMINER

CALEY, MICHAEL H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/638,403

Applicant(s)

NAKAYOSHI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael H. Caley

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8, 14, 17 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12052005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanazawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,088 “Hanazawa”).

Regarding claim 1, Hanazawa discloses a liquid crystal display device having:

a pair of substrates (Figure 5 elements 60 and 84) having a liquid crystal layer (Figure 5 element 90) disposed therebetween;

at least a first conductive layer (Figures 3 and 4 element 53) formed on one of the pair of substrates;

at least a first insulating layer (Figure 4 element 75) formed on the first conductive layer;

a plurality of drain signal lines (Figures 3 and 4 element 50) formed on the first insulating layer;

at least a second insulating layer (Figure 4 elements 79 and 81) formed on the drain signal line;

at least a second conductive layer (Figures 3 and 4 element 51) formed on the second insulating layer and elongated substantially along the drain signal line;

wherein the first conductive layer is elongated substantially along the drain signal line, the first conductive layer having a plurality of first regions (Figure 3, Region L1, plurality including Region L1 of pixels above and below the pixel shown in Figure 3) which overlap with the drain signal line, and a second region (Figure 3, Region directly above region L1 and below element 52) which is arranged between the plurality of first regions and which does not overlap with the drain signal line; and

wherein the second conductive layer is offset from the drain signal line proximate to the first regions (Figure 3, Region L1) of the first conductive layer and overlapped with the drain signal line proximate to the second region (Figure 3, Region directly above region L1 and below element 52) of the first conductive layer.

Regarding claim 2, Hanazawa discloses the second conductive layer as maintaining an electrical connection around the offset region (Figure 3 element 51).

Regarding claim 3, Hanazawa discloses a plurality of gate signal lines (Figure 3 element 62) formed on the one of said pair of substrates and crossing the drain signal lines, wherein the second conductive layer includes a portion having an overlapping relation with the gate signal line (Figures 3 and 5).

Regarding claim 9, Hanazawa discloses a plurality of counter signal lines formed on the one of the pair of substrates and crossing to the drain signal lines (Figure 3 elements 52 and 53), wherein the first conductive layer is a counter signal line (Column 3 line 66 – Column 4 line 3).

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Regarding claim 10, Hanazawa discloses the counter signal line as separated to plural line at the region of overlapping of the drain signal line (Figure 3).

Regarding claims 15, 16, 19, 21, and 22, Hanazawa discloses the second conductive layer as having a hole at the overlapping region of the first conductive layer and the drain signal line, proximate to the first regions of the first conductive layer (Figure 3 element 51).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-13 are allowed.

The prior art fails to disclose or suggest the width of the second conductive layer proximate to the first regions of the first conductive layer as smaller than a width of the second conductive layer proximate to the second region of the first conductive layer in combination with the specific first conductive layer having the first and second regions and the second conductive layer of claim 11.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael H. Caley whose telephone number is (571) 272-2286. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael H. Caley
December 16, 2005



mhc


ANDREW SCHECHTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER